

Message Text

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O R 162129Z JAN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010954

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR, VN, VS, MA

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) BERN 195; (B) STATE 8673; (C) STATE 8672;

(D) STATE 277249 (1974); (E) BERN 477L (1974);

(F) BERN 4662 (1974); (G) STATE 270692 (1974)

1. ACCORDING TO REF (E), SWISS INTERNAL DECISION ON VOTING MAJORITY WILL PROBABLY BE MADE TOMORROW, JAN. 17. OUR ARGUMENTS ON THIS MATTER WERE SENT TO YOU IN REFS (C), (D), AND (G). YOU HAVE ALSO RECEIVED REF (B), WHICH IS OUR CIRCULAR DEMARCHE ON THIS ISSUE.

2. IN VIEW OF SWISS DECISION TO AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG LIASON OFFICE IN GENEVA, REPORTED REF (A), A SWISS DECISION THAT TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED TO REOPEN PRG ISSUE AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE BECOMES ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT. AS A POLITICAL MATTER, WE WOULD THINK SWISS COULD NOT NOW REASONABLY FEAR THAT THEY COULD BE CHARGED WITH PARTIALITY IF THEY AGREE TO RULE THAT TWO-THIRDS IS REQUIRED. THEIR NEUTRAL
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STANCE COULD ONLY BE STRENGTHENED IF THEY REFUSE TO MISIN-

TERPRET THE RULES OF PROCEDURE IN UAY HELPFUL TO COMMUNISTS
AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE.

3. AS THIS IS MATTER OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO USG, WE RE-
QUEST THAT, IN ADDITION TO EMBASSY MAKING POINT TO FRANCOIS
PICTET OF FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT., AMBASSADOR TAKE UP MATTER

DIRECTLY WITH GRABER. YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN
GRABER'S COMMITMENT TO A TWO-THIRDS RULING. YOU SHOULD
ALSO SEEK HIS AGREEMENT TO REASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP OF CON-
FERENCE IF POSSIBLE SHOULD PRG ISSUE ARISE AFTER FEB. 4
AND TO SEE MATTER THROUGH TO PROMPT DISPOSITION ON TWO-
THIRDS MAJORITY BASIS. YOU MAY ASSURE GRABER THAT WE
SHALL TREAT ANY ASSURANCE FROM HIM OF THIS TYPE ON A
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. KISSINGER

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